

From: Lincoln Shumate
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 6:19pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Ms. Hesse,

In response to your request for public comment on the proposed settlement in the case of United States v. Microsoft Corporation, I urge you, as an independent citizen with no direct financial interest in Microsoft nor any of its competitors, to imposed the kinds of penalties and restrictions on Microsoft as is necessary to prevent them and deter others from engaging in similar monopolistic and anticompetitive practices.

There will be more benefit to the health of the economy for business, labor and the consumer when there is an environment in which entrepreneurs feel there is no unfair advantage against producing better products. Entrepreneurs need to rewarded by the marketplace for their creativity and innovation in an environment which doesn't allow strong arm methods that prevent them from succeeding on their on merit.

More successful businesses also means more employed people and lower prices for the consumer. An environment which fosters competitiveness is better for everyone except the monopolists.

The penalties and deterrents should be such that they do not discourage business from innovating and producing, only from using unfair practices.

I would recommend requiring Microsoft to admit to their violations of the law in a highly publicized manner with an apology to their competitors and the consumers.

Also Microsoft should have to pay for an advertising campaign which explains the problems with anticompetitive business practices and to cite and praise other businesses which have succeeded without engaging in those practices.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Shumate

Do You Yahoo!?

Find the one for you at Yahoo! Personals

<http://personals.yahoo.com>